

CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
Of The
Board of School Directors
Administrative Offices/District Assembly Room
August 28, 2018

1.0 Meeting Opening

A) Call to Order

The Regular Board Meeting of the Charters Valley Board of School Directors was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mr. Mazzarini in the District Assembly Room.

B) Pledge of Allegiance

C) Roll Call

Present

Mr. Tony Mazzarini, President
Mr. Mark Kuczinski, Vice President
Mr. Jeff Choura
Mr. Eric Kraemer
Mr. Robert Kearney
Mrs. Julie Murphy (*Via Phone*)
Mrs. Sandy Zeleznik
Mr. Darren Mariano
Mr. Brian Kopec

Also Present

Dr. Johannah Vanatta, Superintendent
Mr. Scott Seltzer, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Don Palmer, Solicitor
Ms. Mikaela Duckstein, Director of Communications
& Strategic Partnerships
Mrs. Emily Eckman, Director of Finance & Operations
Ms. Kim Borza, Board Secretary

D) Recognitions

Dr. Vanatta stated that there were no recognitions this evening.

E) Public Comments

Mr. Russ Pedersen stated that he resides at 1706 Moynelle Drive and has two children in the district, an 8th grader and 10th grader. Mr. Pedersen said that the Assistant Superintendent received a few emails today and he thinks they had a positive response regarding facility fees. Mr. Pedersen's children participate in the youth philharmonic orchestra, and he is speaking to advocate for the value of the program to the district. There are approximately 17 students from the district that participate in the program, and the number should increase as the season moves forward. The program also provides a free festival in the spring which hosts approximately 40-50 kids. It is a great opportunity and an exceptional program. Mr. Pedersen just wants to affirm that this is hopefully not a burden for the district, but that there is also real value. His son has moved up in the youth symphony and he could not have done this without receiving some value from this organization.

2.0 Executive Session

Mr. Mazzarini stated that there was executive session prior to our public meeting tonight to discuss personnel matters.

3.0 Superintendent's Reports/Presentations

Dr. Vanatta acknowledged an article that was put out by the post-gazette, and a study that the University of Pittsburgh conducted on racial disparity and school discipline in Allegheny County. Chartiers Valley was one of the districts mentioned, citing the suspension rates from 13-14 and 15-16, which makes it a little dated. An unfavorable public mention raises concern and causes us all to pause with our issues that we may have at hand, but she wants us to remember as we continue to change and move forward with our administrative team, to look at various things; we are always committed to the better practices of our students, to making sure that our children are our utmost priority, and moving forward with it. She just wanted to make some acknowledgment within that article and that it was heard.

Dr. Vanatta hopes to be able to have monthly accolades and updates with what is going on in the district. As we have the inspiring excellence we want to talk a little bit about celebrating excellence. We've been busy over the summer, we had the opportunity to rebuild and grow. We adopted a CV 7, and talked about some core values for the Chartiers Valley School District. We are asked many times what educators do over the summer with our time, we attend professional development and we learn. Some of our principals and teachers were able to attend a national conference over the summer that was funded primarily from a grant. They worked on personalized learning, and we also had some of our teachers go to AP professional development. We offer over 21 AP classes at CV. We coordinate with NMSI training, which is a national science and math initiative. We added an AP capstone course for science, which is a biomedical program, we have about nine students enrolled and it is over four years of higher level biology. We also added an AP seminar course which is another AP capstone. If our students score high enough, they will get some type of college credit for their AP classes. We also looked at the primary school to offer programs that focus on social/emotional education, mindfulness, art expression and mindfulness through movement.

Dr. Vanatta talked about a few other things that have occurred, Officer Provrik was awarded the national exceptional service award from NASRO. The dance troupe went to Ohio over the summer, they ranked very high and we had a student named all American, they were also asked to compete in nationals. The boys' soccer team raised \$500 for Bridgeville flood relief. We have become a litter free school zone and partnered with keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, signs will be up around campus. We distributed chrome books and other technology to our teachers. The elementary principals had "Popcorn with Principals", which is a time for our students to get oriented with their principals.

Dr. Vanatta said that opening week was great; we had Dr. Kevin Elko speak and motivate the staff to get us ready to go. We had professional development for our teachers that was lead internally from our administrative team. The professional development was based upon instruction practices, personalized learning and how to make sure we are reaching our students. The students did great on day 1 and Dr. Vanatta visited all campuses. The students were excited to see their principals and teachers. Dr. Vanatta also had the opportunity to tour the Parkway West Career Center. The center serves approximately 100 of our students in 13 different programs from culinary to carpentry to aeronautics; Dr. Darby Copland gave a wonderful tour.

Dr. Vanatta stated that she cannot end without mentioning that last Friday, the football team blew Ringgold out of the water 48-0, it was a great highlight. We also had some media mention, the Trib mentioned our administrative changes and some new hires which resulted in some shout outs on social media.

4.0 Solicitor's Report

None

5.0 Approve Minutes

5.1 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the meeting minutes from June 12, 2018 and June 26, 2018.

**Motion to approve item 5.1 listed above.
MOVED by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Mariano.
On a voice vote, the motion passes unanimously.**

6.0 Informational Agenda

A) Education Foundation

Mikaela Duckstein reported that they are meeting this week with representatives of the foundation. She will talk with them about ideas she has for a marketing campaign to attract sponsors. It is preliminary right now, she is in phase I, she has reached out to everyone and they will be meeting soon.

B) Pathfinder

Mr. Kramer stated that they met last week and enrollment is up to 77 for this year. That means they replaced all the graduating students plus a few more. They are opening a second pride room; it is primarily for students who are 18-21 years old and focuses more on life skills – laundry, cooking, traffic safety, public transportation, how to get around and basic life skills. The program has gone so well that they are opening a second group this year.

Mr. Kramer also said that they continued their roof replacement discussions, they will take a vote next week, there are five districts, three districts instructed their representatives to vote to use Garland and two districts have not made up their minds. Garland is a manufacturer of the roofing product. They agree to sell the product to all contractors at the same price and bid out the installation. The other option is to get an architect involved and have him look at multiple products. It is pretty common on campuses, both high school and college, to use the Garland system. They do carry a longer warranty, typically 30-35 years. It is a little more expense upfront but it lasts longer. They will vote next time and it will fall into next year's operating budget.

C) Parkway

Mr. Choura said that they met last week; enrollment is up to 848 which is really good. They are on the verge of starting to work with UPMC Health Academy and they are pretty excited about it. The parent orientation was on August 16th and they hired a new HVAC instructor.

D) SHASDA

Mrs. Zeleznik said that SHASDA was off for the summer. However, she anticipates receiving communication from them in the next week with meeting dates for this school year.

E) Finance Committee Report

Mr. Kuczinski stated that they did not have a finance committee meeting.

7.0 Consent Agenda

7.1 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the Equity Plan for Title I.

7.2 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the bill list.

A) Academics

None

B) Personnel

7.3 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the Human Resources Report.

C) Budget & Finance

None

D) Superintendent

7.4 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the first reading of Policy #108-Adoption of Textbooks.

7.5 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the first reading of Policy #918-Title I Parental Involvement.

7.6 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the first reading of Policy #704-Maintenance.

7.7 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the first reading of Policy #311-Reduction of Staff.

7.8 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the first reading of Policy #707-Facilities.

7.9 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve Scott Seltzer as School Safety and Security Coordinator for the Chartiers Valley School District as per New School Safety Legislation-Act 39 of 2018 & Act 44 of 2018.

Mr. Mazzarini asked Dr. Vanatta to explain a little about the equity plan as part of Title 1. Dr. Vanatta stated that districts are all required to have an equity plan that makes sure all of our students are educated through highly qualified teachers. This plan usually pertains more to private and charter schools that do not have the same requirements through PDE that we have. All of our teachers are highly qualified in their content area. Basically this ensures that you do not have a math teacher teaching English which is out of their certification at a secondary level. The equity plan is required in order for us to get our funding from the state and federal government.

Mr. Mazzarini also asked Dr. Vanatta to explain the new role that Mr. Seltzer will be taking at the district as the school safety and security coordinator. Dr. Vanatta explained that PDE has installed a safety and security committee at the state level and because of that they also put in new legislation over the summer, Act 39 and Act 44. Within these acts, there are various requirements for school safety and security. One of those being that by August 30th we have to appoint an administrator to oversee safety and security. Our SROs are contracted out, they are not in-house administrators. Mr. Seltzer has graciously accepted to help us out with that role.

Motion to approve items 7.1 through 7.9 listed above.

MOVED by Mr. Choura, seconded by Mr. Mariano.

On a voice vote, the motion passes unanimously.

8.0 Action/Discussion

8.1 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the second reading of the following policies: 249-Bullying, 835-Commercial Act, 352-Social Media, 610-Finance, 625-Finance, 626-Finance, 626.1-Finance and 611-Finance

Motion to approve item 8.1 listed above.

MOVED by Mr. Kraemer, seconded by Mr. Kearney.

On a voice vote, the motion passes unanimously.

9.0 Public Comments

Mr. Mazzarini closed with a few things, he stated that it was great to participate in opening day with our teachers, faculty and administration. Mr. Mazzarini said that he, Mrs. Zeleznik, Mr. Kramer, and Mr. Kuczinski were fortunate enough to attend. Mr. Elko's speech was unbelievable, 45 minutes of a motivating and uplifting way to look at what is real, he laid it out there reminding us what is important and how we should be acting and doing as teachers, motivators and life examples for the students. He was awesome and it was great to listen to him. It was also fun to sit in the stands Friday night and watch the football team have a great game, hats off to the coach, he's doing a great job.

Mr. Mazzarini stated that we are very close to having a renewal contract with Mr. Seltzer, as a board we felt it was important to keep him in place for a five year period going forward. We hope to have this resolved in the next few weeks and to have him and Dr. Vanatta working as a team here at Chartiers Valley for the next five years.

Mr. Mazzarini thanked Mr. Kuczinski for stepping up and handling a process that is not going to be an easy one. We as a board have sat with our consultant, who was our search consultant for our new superintendent, and as part of his due diligence, he comes back and services us as the coach to get us to a great point where we evaluate Dr. Vanatta's job going forward, this is a very detailed and organized process that we are going to follow and Mr. Kuczinski has stepped up to help administer that process.

Mr. Choura stated that it is Debbie Wiseman's last week at the district, she has done a great job stepping in and he would like for the Board to send her something as a thank you. Mr. Mazzarini agreed and Dr. Vanatta said she will make it happen.

10.0 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:55 p.m.

MOVED by Mr. Choura, seconded by Mr. Kearney.

On a voice vote, the motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Borza
Board Secretary
